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Message Text

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44
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIEP-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /115 W
---------- 057647
R 260855Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4155
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, JA
SUBJECT: LDP LOSES KAGAWA GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION

SUMMARY: ON AUG 25, REFORMIST-BACKED INDEPENDENT TADAO MAEKAWA EASILY DEFEATED LDP INCUMBENT IN KAGAWA PREFECTURE GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

1. ON AUG 25, TADAO MAEKAWA (65), INDEPENDENT BACKED BY ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES, DEFEATED LONG-TIME LDP INCUMBENT MASANORI KANEKO IN KAGAWA PREFECTURE GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION. WITH 72 PERCENT VOTING RATE, FORMER KAGAWA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT MAEKAWA WON OVER KANEKO, WHO WAS SEEKING SEVENTH FOUR-YEAR TERM, BY LOPSIDED MARGIN OF 280,733 TO 192,648 VOTES. RESULT WAS FIRST EVER REFORMIST WIN IN KAGAWA, AND INDEED SHIKOKU.

2. FIRST GUBERNATORIAL CONTEST SINCE JULY UPPER HOUSE ELECTION, KAGAWA CAMPAIGN ATTRACTED NUMBER OF CONSERVATIVE AND REFORMIST PARTY LUMINARIES WHO STUMPED FOR RESPECTIVE CANDIDATES. POLITICAL OBERVERS DESCRIBED CONTEST AS PROXY BATTLE BETWEEN FINANCE MINISTER MASAYOHI OHIRA AND JSP CHAIRMAN TOMOMI NARITA, BOTH OF WHOM HAIL FROM KAGAWA,
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WITH IMPLICATION THAT VOTERS REJECTED OHIRA AND --BY

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EXTENSION--TANAKA ADMINISTRATION. PRESS ALSO SUGGESTED
THAT VOTERS WERE UNHAPPY WITH KANEKO'S EMPHASIS ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN ON SOCIAL WELFARE. MORE
FUNDAMENTAL REASON FOR CONSERVATIVE DEFEAT, HOWEVER, MAY
HAVE BEEN WIDE-SPREAD FEELING THAT KANEKO AFTER 24 YEARS IN OFFICE
HAD SIMPLY SERVED FOR TOO LONG. ADDITIONALLY, LDP ITSELF WAS
DIVIDED AFTER LOCAL PRE-ELECTION EFFORT BY SOME CONSERVATIVES TO
HAVE PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN KEIJI MAEDA DESIGNATED
AS LDP CANDIDATE IN PLACE OF KANEKO. WHETHER KAGAWA
RESULT REPRESENTS CONTINUING ANTI-LDP MOOD MANIFEST IN
UPPER HOUSE ELECTION AND IS HARBINGER OF FURTHER LDP DE-
CLINE IN NEXT SPRING'S LOCAL ELECTIONS OR SIMPLY REPRESENTS
REJECTION OF MAN TOO LONG IN OFFICE MAY BE MORE APPARENT
AFTER GUBERNATORIAL CONTESTS IN NARA AND HYOGO THIS FALL.

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TAGS: PINT, JA, (MAEKAWA, TADAO), (KANEKO, MASANORI)
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